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Washington, D.C. - Joined by family and friends, Peter Welch was sworn in today as Vermont's 11th Governor.

Welch then cast his first vote to elect the nation's first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Comprehensive ethics reform, championed by the new Democratic leadership, is expected to pass.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2007

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Welch sworn in, casts first votes for new Speaker

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Washington, D.C. - Joined by family and friends, Peter Welch was sworn in today as Vermont's sole member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Welch then cast his first vote to elect the nation's first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Comprehensive ethics reform, championed by the new Democratic leadership, is expected to pass the House in the coming weeks.

"It's a great honor to be serving Vermonters and begin changing the direction of this country. Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in Vermont's history."

"Passing ethics reform is an important first step for fresh start as Congress begins an aggressive agenda to reform the federal government."

"In our first 100 legislative hours, we will pass legislation to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington, fund education, and create jobs."

Welch was also asked by House leadership to preside on the House floor, scheduled for 10 p.m. this evening.

The ethics reform bans gifts from lobbyists and lobbyist financed travel, prohibits use of company planes for personal use, and requires disclosure of gifts and travel.

In addition, the reforms include provisions to get Congress back to work by reinstating long-practiced debarment rules for lobbyists.

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Welch made restoring "Pay-go" budgeting and a return to fiscal responsibility a cornerstone of his camp

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